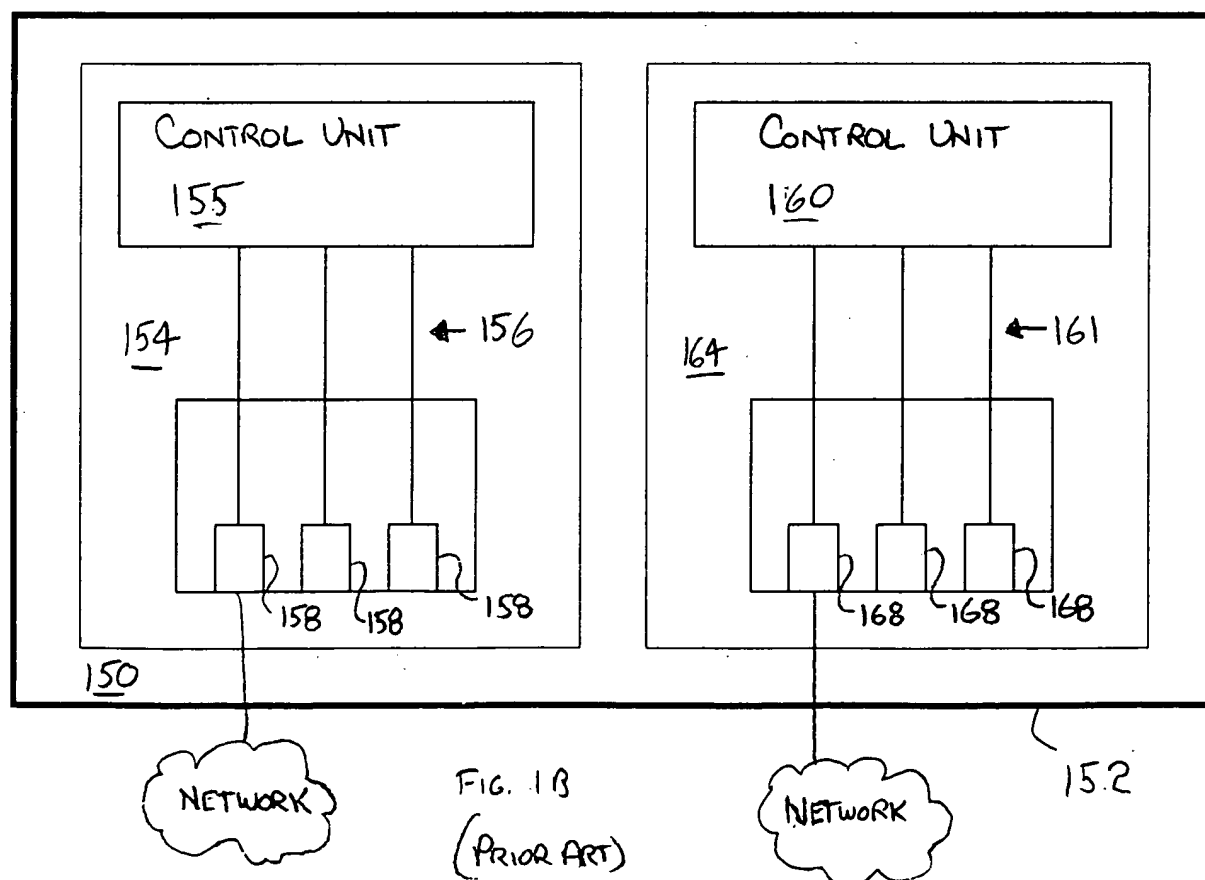


FIG. 1A
(PRIOR ART)



The diagram illustrates a network system 200. At the top, there are two control units: CONTROL UNIT 222 and CONTROL UNIT 242. Below them is a horizontal bar representing a network 230, which contains a series of nodes labeled 223, 225, ..., 227, 243, 245, ..., 247. Each control unit is connected to its corresponding set of nodes in network 230. Below network 230 is another horizontal bar representing a network 235, which contains a series of nodes labeled 260, 262, ..., 264. Each node in network 230 is connected to a corresponding node in network 235. At the bottom, there is a cloud labeled NETWORK 202. Arrows indicate bidirectional communication between the nodes in network 235 and the NETWORK 202.

FIG. 2A

The diagram illustrates a network switch architecture. It features two main components: LOGICAL SWITCH 220 and LOGICAL SWITCH 240. Each logical switch contains a CONTROL UNIT (222 and 242 respectively) and a set of ports (223, 225, 227 and 243, 245, 247 respectively). The ports are interconnected via a central switching fabric (200). The switch is connected to a NETWORK 275 through a series of ports (260, 262, 264) and a network interface (202). The entire system is labeled 204.

FIG. 2B

202

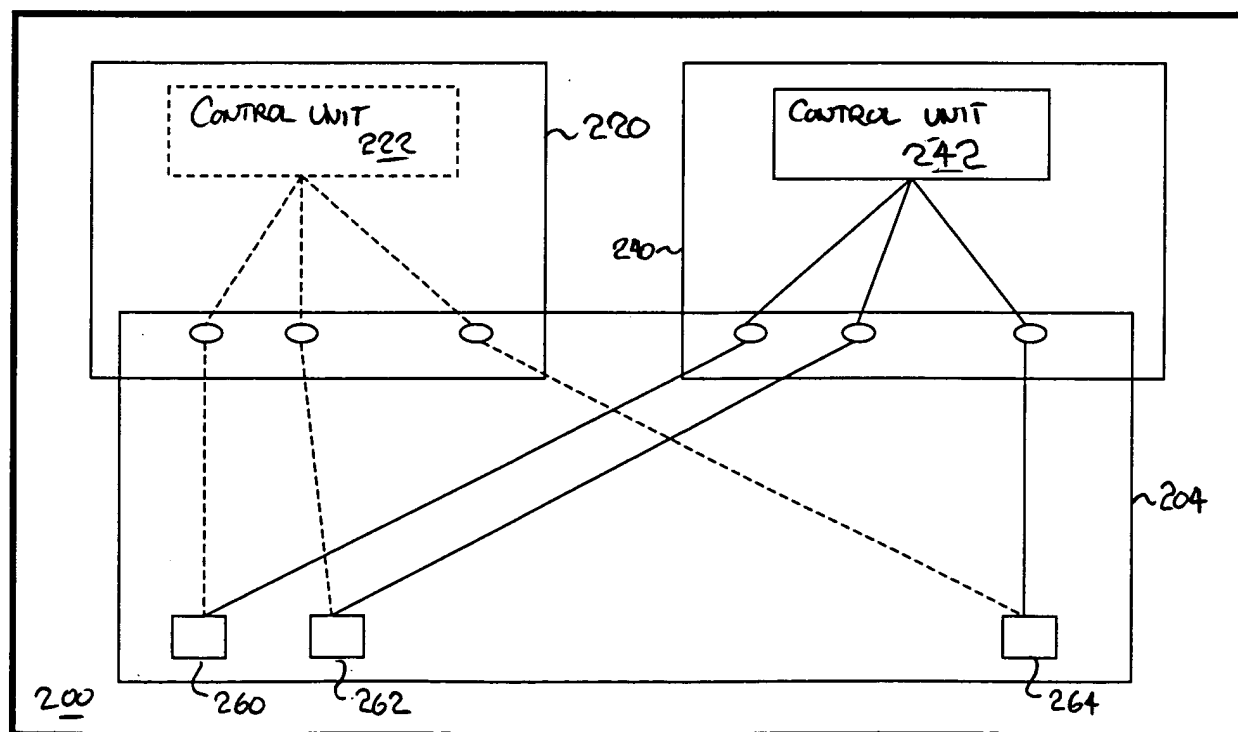


FIG. 2D


```

graph TD
    Begin([Begin]) --> 402[New data packet received]
    402 --> 404{Is at least one logical port in forwarding state?}
    404 -- No --> 414[Discard Packet]
    414 --> Begin
    404 -- Yes --> 406[Perform forwarding lookup]
    406 --> 408{Lookup successful?}
    408 -- No --> 416[Destination unknown]
    416 --> 418[Add header to packet and broadcast/multicast]
    418 --> Begin
    408 -- YES --> 410[Lookup specifies outgoing port]
    410 --> 412[Add header to packet and transmit to outgoing port]
    412 --> Begin

```

FIG. 4